



Washington DC Region, SCCA

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April 5, 2008

Dennis L. Rubin
Chief of Fire and Emergency Medical Services
District of Columbia
1923 Vermont Ave, NW, Suite 102
Washington, D.C. 20001

Dear Chief Rubin,

On behalf of the Sports Car Club of America, Washington D.C. Region, I wish to express our appreciation and acknowledge the contributions of one of your Firefighter/Technicians, Firefighter Toree Holmes, D.C. Engine Company 5. Firefighter Holmes, a member of our organization, has graciously shared with the region his knowledge and expertise on safely combating car fires while protecting the driver.

The Washington D.C. region of the SCCA runs a very active racing program, the Mid Atlantic Road Racing Series (MARRS), primarily at its home track of Summit Point WV. In promoting the safety of the drivers, the region has a cadre of "first responders" to an incident known as Flagging and Communication (F&C) workers. Their primary responsibility is to communicate with participating drivers around the race course during an event. However, in the event of an incident, the F&C personnel are typically the first ones on the scene to assist the driver to safety. As part of our ongoing commitment to safety, region personnel will annually spend a day in training including burning and extinguishing a junk car in order to provide a realistic training environment. Firefighter Holmes has led this fire training for the last several years, teaching the proper way to approach a vehicle on fire, providing precautionary insights and techniques to be used in keeping the flames away from the driver in order to allow for an assisted or unassisted escape. His willingness to share his experience only enhances the safety of the drivers and workers alike. This is a voluntary role and we are privileged to have someone with his knowledge willing to participate. His self-deprecating sense of humor, credibility as a firefighter and his overall demeanor and approach to training provide the leadership characteristics needed to educate a very diverse group of individuals ranging from complete novices to participants with more than 30 years of experience participating in automobile racing events.

Through his willingness to participate and the knowledge he imparts, Firefighter Holmes brings credit to not only himself, but the Fire and Emergency Services of Washington, D.C.

Sincerely,

James Noel
Chief, Flagging and Communications
Washington D.C. Region - SCCA